

# PROJECT PUTNAM

2019  
QUARTER ONE

CONGRESSMAN  
TED S. YOHO, DVM

# DEAR FRIENDS,

Dear friends,

In the following pages you will find updates from the first Project Putnam report of 2019. Just over a year ago we started on this journey to make Putnam County the best it can be, and now I can say with confidence that we are well on our way toward that goal. Our office is overwhelmed with the amount of engagement from the community in working for the common good. Community groups, educators, businesses, and local governments are all on board with Project Putnam and are actively contributing to its success. For more in-depth information on the Project and just how far we have come, I encourage you to read this full report and visit my website for more details on our vision for Putnam County.



Project Putnam is a three-year plan to improve the economic, social, educational, and general development of Putnam County. At its core are the five pillars of Recovery, Stability, Growth, Accountability, and Engagement which help to guide the Project in achieving its goal of making sure that Putnam County is reaching its full potential.

We are seeing that staggering potential every day in the work of our civil servants, local leaders, first responders, teachers, as well as our servicemen and women, who have my fullest gratitude and thanks for their hard work. I would also like to recognize State Senator Keith Perry and State Representative Bobby Payne for helping to convince Tallahassee to believe in Putnam County, and their work in helping to secure funding for numerous community development projects that are integral to Project Putnam. In just over a year we have seen high school graduation rates skyrocket, crime rates plummet, and opportunities expand to make sure that everyone in Putnam County has the chance to succeed.

I would once again like to thank everyone involved who is working to make Putnam County a leading community in the State of Florida and beyond. But this is something that we cannot do by ourselves. If you have any questions, comments, or additions you would like to make to this project or any of our other community initiatives, then I encourage you to contact our office directly at 352-505-0838 or visit my website at [Yoho.House.gov](http://Yoho.House.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted S. Yoho".

Ted S. Yoho, DVM

Member of Congress

Proudly Serving Florida's 3rd District

# PROJECT PUTNAM

## Moving Forward into 2019

### Putnam at a Glance

In November 2017, our office worked with local and state officials and county stakeholders to determine a list of goals to accomplish by 2020. The below statistics compare where we were then, where we are now and where we are going.

**EXCEEDED**

#### High School Graduation Rate

**2015-16** 63.6%  
**2016-17** 84.8%  
**2020 Goal**  
80%

#### Avg Annual Salary

**2017** \$36,249  
**2018** \$42,947  
**2020 Goal**  
\$45,000

**EXCEEDED**

#### Admissions to Prison per 100k

**2017** 348.9  
**2018** 231.6  
**2020 Goal**  
244

**EXCEEDED**

#### Federal Funding

**2017** \$16,190,883  
**2018** \$64,437,991  
**2020 Goal**  
\$20,000,000

#### Government Housing

**2017** #1 in State  
**2018** Awaiting updated  
report  
**2020 Goal**  
Out of Top 10

**EXCEEDED**

#### Unemployment

**2017** 5.8%  
**2018** 4.4%  
**2020 Goal**  
4.9%

#### % of Population in Poverty

**2017** 27-29%  
**2018** 26.3%  
**2020 Goal**  
19%

# PROJECT PUTNAM

## 2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

### 2018 County Projects

- East Putnam Drainage and Flooding Mitigation
- Multi-use education and Livestock facility
- Animal Shelter Facility
- Various Wastewater Lines and Lift Stations
- Various Potable Water Expansion Projects
- FEMA Reimbursements
- Communications Equipment Upgrade
- Putnam County School District Advance Manufacturing
- Barge Port

### Federal Funding Funding increased by

**398%**

### Federal Projects

- Social Security Administration Office
- Rural Broadband
- Ocala National Forest
- Potable Water Expansion Project
- Landfill & Incinerator Options
- Barge Port
- Renaming post office to Robert H. Jenkins Post Office in Interlachen

### Supported Grant & Project Requests

- Florida Rural GEAR UP Grant
- Stem Opportunities for all Rural Students Grant
- USDA Grant for Palatka Firetruck
- MakerMind Program
- Capital Fund Formula Grant
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Build Grant

### 2018 State Appropriations

Senator Keith Perry  
Representative Bobby Payne

- East Palatka Fire Station Water Expansion - \$850,000
- Communications Equipment Upgrade - \$790,232
- Putnam County School District Advance Manufacturing - \$250,000

### Putnam County Sheriff's Office

Crime fell by  
**17.9%**

The 2nd largest county  
decrease in the state

### 2018 City Projects

#### Palatka

- Recreation Enhancements
- Road and Storm Water Improvements
- Water Line Replacement
- Urban Service Area Map
- Lift Stations

#### Crescent City

- Rural Broadband
- Road Infrastructure
- Wastewater Management
- Shoreline and Pier Improvements

#### Pomona Park

- Florida Recreational development programs
- Community Development
- Pomona Park Town Hall
- Drainage Pipes Infrastructure

#### Welaka

- Fort Gates Ferry
- Hurricane-Related Damages

#### Interlachen

- No report submitted

### Putnam County School District

Graduation Rates increase to

**84.8%**

- African American students: 80% graduation rate
- Hispanic students: 89.7% graduation rate
- English Language Learners: 76.9% graduation rate
- Low socioeconomic students: 83.2% Graduation Rate
- Students with Disabilities: 69.9% Graduation Rate





# FEDERAL UPDATE

## Quarter 1 Meetings

January 15, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met via phone with Putnam County Administrator Terry Suggs and Joshua Gabaton of Gabaton Group to discuss federal appropriations and county priorities.

January 17, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with Putnam County's Emergency Management's director, Quin Romy, to discuss projects, federal appropriations, and department needs.

January 17, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with Palatka Police Department's Chief Jason Shaw to discuss projects, federal appropriations, and department needs.

January 17, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with County Administrator, Terri Suggs, to discuss federal appropriations, upcoming projects and county needs.

January 17, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with UF/IFAS Extension Director David Dinkins to discuss economic development ideas such as the First Coast Fresh Food Innovation Center to be established in Putnam County.

January 31, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with Florida Representative Bobby Payne, Cheryl Lynch and David Dinkins to discuss economic development ideas such as the First Coast Fresh Food Innovation Center to be established in Putnam County. This project would provide the opportunity for small businesses and farmers to expand their businesses in an innovative and economically feasible way.

February 19, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with each of the Putnam County Commissioners to discuss the individual priorities of the county leadership.

February 19, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with Palatka Mayor Terrill Hill, City Clerk Betsy Driggers, and Public Works Director Jonathan Griffith to discuss projects, federal appropriations, and city needs.

February 19, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with Palatka's Fire Chief Grimes regarding projects, federal appropriations and city needs.

March 14, 2019

Congressman Yoho attended the Boy Scouts of America's American Values Dinner.

March 27, 2019

Congressman Yoho's team met with Crescent City's Manager, Patrick Kennedy, to discuss projects, federal appropriations and city needs.

March 27, 2019

Congressman Ted Yoho's team met with the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce's Brian Bergen to discuss projects, federal

# FEDERAL UPDATE CONT.

## 2019 Projects and Accomplishments

### Social Security Administration

On October 10th, Congressman Yoho started a campaign with the social security administration to reopen a social security office in Putnam County. Letters and phone calls are currently being exchanged requesting an office to be brought back to the folds of Putnam County. At the time of the office's consolidation in 2011, the factors included access to other offices and online services. However, Congressman Yoho shares with the Social Security Administration that for many in the county, the commute to nearby offices includes over two hours of drive time and approximately 5,000 people do not have access to the internet. The goal of this effort is to reopen the Social Security office in Palatka so the citizens of Putnam County receive this basic but crucial government service without having to drive over an hour away from Putnam County.

### Ocala National Forest

Congressman Yoho's office partnered with Putnam County, Representative Bobby Payne's office and the US Forest Service to help repair roads that have been damaged since Hurricane Irma. The goal is to have a clear understanding and procedure between the forest service, state, and county to maintain these roads from now on.

### Rural Broadband

Broadband Initiatives - Congressman Ted Yoho is currently evaluating federal programs and grants which the County and respective municipalities can apply for to begin infrastructure for rural broadband. In addition to working with the White House to secure billions for rural infrastructure, the Congressman is also meeting with private companies who are developing and funding the 5G networks and technology for potential use in rural areas.

On January 28th, Congressman Yoho partnered with Microsoft for a conference call with elected officials, city and county managers and IT directors across the Third Congressional District to discuss the opportunities of additional rural broadband options in the Putnam County area.

### Army Corp of Engineers

**Potable Water Expansion Project- Federal Point Corridor-** In addition to a letter of support, Rep. Ted Yoho met with the Army Corp of Engineers in Washington D.C. to discuss the modernization effort and the improvement of the water supply system in Putnam County. The goal of this project is to install potable water lines and lift stations to mitigate septic tank flooding near St. Johns River. The county is seeking inclusion on the 2020 Work Program through the assistance of Congressman Yoho and Senator Rubio's office.

### Landfill and Incinerator Options

As a means to reduce the burden on the current landfill and generate income for the County. Municipal solid waste is usually burned at special waste-to-energy plants that use the heat from the fire to make steam for generating electricity or to heat buildings. Currently, the office of Congressman Ted Yoho is exploring feasible options for this project and exploring grant opportunities.

# STATE UPDATES



Senator Keith Perry



Rep. Bobby Payne

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## 2019 State Appropriations

Palatka St. John's Ave Pedesterian & Cyclist Safety requests funds to mill and resurface St. John's Avenue from the 500 block through the 1300 block; install brick at each intersections for traffic calming & pedestrians.

The request is for \$1, 302, 816.

Putnam county Animal Shelter Facility requests funds to build a new animal shelter to replace existing damaged during Hurricane Irma. Facility will include spay and neuter program and adoption area. The request is for \$500,000.

Palatka WWTP Bio-solids Treatment System Upgrades is seeking funding to facilitate needed improvements for its wastewater treatment facilities; specifically for respective bio solids treatment and dewatering system components. The goal is to allow for lowest life cycle cost solution. The request is for \$3.2 million.

Palatka Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements requests funds for the replacement of failing water lines in order to correct poor water quality, low water pressure, and alleviate excessive water loss within the system. The request is for \$1.5 million.

Putnam County Port Buena Visa WWTF Replacement requests funds to address issues of probable contamination. The WWTF is constructed in close proximity to the St Johns River, providing high probability for contamination for the waterway, especially during storm surges. By installing life stations, the aging plant may be eliminated and the potential for illicit spills highly reduced. The request is for \$1, 691, 710.

Putnam County Economic Corridor State Road 207 Wastewater Expansion requested funds for a public wastewater disposal system in the region that will promote future economic development along the State Road 207 corridor. The request is for \$850,000.

Putnam County Municipal Fairgrounds Multi-Use Facilities requests funds for a covered multi-use facilities available for youth and entertainment programs during fair, economic and agritourism driver, agricultural and animal educational programs, and serve as a shelter for large animals/pets during disasters. The request is for \$750,000.

Putnam County Section 5061 Infrastructure 2007 WRDA Bill requests funding to support the provision in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, Section 5061 East Central and Northeast Florida, which authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to provide federal assistance to water supply and facilities projects in Palatka. The request is for \$500,000.

Putnam County Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) requests the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers to initiate the implementation of Dredge Plan and Project for the proper removal of sediment and raw material within the Barge Port of Putnam County. The request is for \$100,000.



# PUTNAM COUNTY UPDATE



County Administrator  
Terry Suggs

The focused initiatives strive to alleviate problems specific to Putnam County. After the completion of Project Putnam, the goal is that Putnam County will continue to thrive and grow for the benefit of its residents.

## Key State & County Project Updates

**East Palatka Fire Station Potable Water Expansion** – the goal of this project was to extend the Putnam County potable water lines along the S/R 207 Corridor to include a fire station. This project is supported by Senate Appropriation Form 2250 and House Bill 3297. During last year's budget cycle, Putnam County received \$1 million to build the new Fire Station in East Palatka. This project was awarded \$850,000, and has been advertised for construction and bids received by the end of January 2019.

### **Communications Equipment Upgrade/Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Dispatch Radio Equipment Project**

The goal of this project was to update the Public Safety Radio System in a phased approach to a P25 Communication System. This project was supported by House Bill 3295 and State Senate's last legislative session and was awarded \$790,232. The county has completed the request for proposal (RFP) process for a communication system consultant, Omnicom Consulting Group Inc, to assist in obtaining the new consoles and system integration services. The bid award is currently pending the Board of County Commissioners approval.

**East Putnam Drainage and Flooding Mitigation-** The goal of this project was to enhance the storm water system and significantly reduce flooding. The requested \$800,000 was not awarded, but the County has reapplied for state legislative appropriation.

**Multi-Use Education and Livestock Facility-** The goal of this project was to provide a facility for youth and agriculture education, large animal shelter during storm events and an upgrade to fairgrounds. The request was for \$290,000 and it was not awarded. The Putnam County Fair Association has located funding and is in the process of demolishing and reconstruction. The county has reapplied for state legislative appropriation.

**Putnam County School District Advanced Manufacturing** - This project was supported by Senate Appropriation Form 2316 and House Bill 3271, which was awarded \$250,000. These funds will assist in preparing for technical and vocational skills for local industry jobs. The funds are to purchase equipment and to renovate existing rooms.

**Animal Shelter Facility-** The goal of this project is to replace the shelter damaged during Hurricane Irma as well as the house pet adoption and spay neuter program. The county requested an appropriation in the amount of \$500,000, which was not awarded. The animal shelter worked to acquire a private/public partnership which allowed them to select a site. Design discussions have been underway since July 2018 and the county anticipates construction to begin this year. The county has reapplied for state legislative appropriation.



# PUTNAM COUNTY UPDATE

## St. Johns River Management District

The goals of these projects is to install wastewater lines and lift stations to mitigate septic tank flooding near the St. Johns River.

**Paradise Point to Gilbert Road** – The request was for \$2 million and it was awarded. All work is complete on this project with the exception of the buildout of the lift stations and wet wells.

**Pico Road and Elsie Drive** – The request was for \$462, 304 and it was awarded. The county is finalizing funding agreement with the St. Johns River Water Management District and anticipates design commencement this year. The design build agreement will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in February 2019 for execution.

**Horse Landing Road-** The request was for \$656, 996 and it was awarded. The county is finalizing a funding agreement with St. Johns River Water Management District and anticipates design commencement this year. The design build agreement will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in February 2019 for execution.

## USDA

**East Palatka Potable Water Expansion** - The goal of this project is to provide infrastructure development with potable water and positively impact the environment. The request was for \$2.5 million. The project has been designed, permitted and now awaits a funding source.

**Dunns Creek Potable Water Expansion** -The goal of this project is to bring potable water and positively impact the environment. The request was for \$4.5 million and is awaiting funding.

## FEMA

**Hurricane Matthew FEMA Public Assistance-** The goal of this project is to reimburse the County Funds expended for response and recovery efforts. The County has received \$160, 804.23 in the General Fund and \$1, 061, 753.33 in the Sanitation Fund. The county is continuing work on recovery efforts of Veterans Park.

**Hurricane Irma FEMA Public Assistance** – The goal of this project is to reimburse the County Funds expended for the response and recovery efforts. The estimated reimbursement is \$5, 591,820.93. FEMA/Florida Division of Emergency Management has currently reimbursed the Putnam BOCC a total of \$4,056,436.07 and reimbursed the Putnam County Sheriff's Office a total of \$252,819.44.

# WHAT TO EXPECT IN Q5

## Project Putnam Vision

### Federal

Plan additional meetings with stakeholders and county/city officials. Continue to garner federal support for key projects within the County. Heavily promote Putnam County as a key area for investment and growth. Address the emergency management communications system that is critically needed for Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement. Finally, continue to garner feedback from the community as to the direction of Project Putnam.

### State

Continue to support the goals for Putnam County by providing opportunities for economic growth.

### County & Cities

Begin and complete infrastructure projects, and continue to meet with officials that will bring broadband throughout the county.

### Schools

Elementary School Media Specialists will return for additional training in incorporating STEM across the curriculum, and will receive additional curriculum and materials to bring back to their schools.

### Stakeholders

Continue to grow within Putnam County and help Putnam grow as a whole.



# GET INVOLVED!

Do you have ideas for Project Putnam? Share them on our website at [Yoho.House.Gov](http://Yoho.House.Gov) or on our Facebook Group page called “Rep. Yoho’s Project Putnam.” Following our website or Facebook page will also keep you updated on events and meetings happening with Project Putnam.

# CONTACT US!



[www.Yoho.House.Gov](http://www.Yoho.House.Gov)



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# Thank you